

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

* * *

MICHAEL ESTES,

Plaintiff,

v.

DAWN JONES, *et. al.*,

Defendants.

Case No. 3:21-CV-00214-ART-CLB
**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION
OF U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE¹**

On January 26, 2023, Defendants filed a motion for summary judgment and related documents in this case. (ECF Nos. 56, 57, 58, 59.) The following day, Ely State Prison (“ESP”) returned three of the filings addressed to Plaintiff Michael Estes, each with a handwritten note stating, “RTS not at ESP.” (ECF Nos. 60, 61, 62.) Pursuant to Local Rule IA 3-1, a party must immediately file with the Court written notification of any change of mailing address. Thus, the Court directed Plaintiff to file a notice of change of address by March 1, 2023 and stayed the case until Plaintiff filed the notice. (ECF No 63.) Plaintiff was additionally cautioned that his failure to comply with this Court’s order would result in a recommendation that this action be dismissed. To date, Plaintiff has failed to comply with this Court’s order.

District courts have the inherent power to control their dockets and “[i]n the exercise of that power, they may impose sanctions including, where appropriate . . . dismissal” of a case. *Thompson v. Hous. Auth. of City of Los Angeles*, 782 F.2d 829, 831 (9th Cir. 1986). A court may dismiss an action, with prejudice, based on a party’s failure to prosecute an action, failure to obey a court order, or failure to comply with local rules. *See Ghazali v. Moran*, 46 F.3d 52, 53-54 (9th Cir. 1995) (dismissal for noncompliance with local rule); *Ferdik v. Bonzelet*, 963 F.2d 1258, 1260-61 (9th Cir. 1992) (dismissal for

¹ This Report and Recommendation is made to the Honorable Anne R. Traum, United States District Judge. The action was referred to the undersigned Magistrate Judge pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B) and LR IB 1-4.

1 failure to comply with an order requiring amendment of complaint); *Carey v. King*, 856
2 F.2d 1439, 1440-41 (9th Cir. 1988) (dismissal for failure to comply with local rule requiring
3 pro se plaintiffs to keep court apprised of address); *Malone v. U.S. Postal Service*, 833
4 F.2d 128, 130 (9th Cir. 1987) (dismissal for failure to comply with court order); *Henderson*
5 *v. Duncan*, 779 F.2d 1421, 1424 (9th Cir. 1986) (dismissal for lack of prosecution and
6 failure to comply with local rules).

7 In determining whether to dismiss an action for lack of prosecution, failure to obey
8 a court order, or failure to comply with local rules, the Court must consider several factors:
9 (1) the public's interest in expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the court's need to
10 manage its docket; (3) the risk of prejudice to the defendants; (4) the public policy favoring
11 disposition of cases on their merits; and (5) the availability of less drastic alternatives.
12 *Thompson*, 782 F.2d at 831; *Henderson*, 779 F.2d at 1423-24; *Malone*, 833 F.2d at 130;
13 *Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1260-61; *Ghazali*, 46 F.3d at 53.

14 In the instant case, the Court finds that the first two factors, the public's interest in
15 expeditiously resolving this litigation and the Court's interest in managing the docket,
16 weigh in favor of dismissal. The third factor, risk of prejudice to defendants, also weighs
17 in favor of dismissal, since a presumption of injury arises from the occurrence of
18 unreasonable delay in filing a pleading ordered by the court or prosecuting an action. See
19 *Anderson v. Air West*, 542 F.2d 522, 524 (9th Cir. 1976). The fourth factor—public policy
20 favoring disposition of cases on their merits—is greatly outweighed by the factors in favor
21 of dismissal discussed herein. Finally, a Court's warning to a party that his failure to obey
22 the Court's order will result in dismissal satisfies the "consideration of alternatives"
23 requirement. *Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1262; *Malone*, 833 F.2d at 132-33; *Henderson*, 779 F.2d
24 at 1424. The Court's order requiring Plaintiff to update his address explicitly stated that:
25 "Failure to comply with this rule may result in dismissal of this action." (ECF No. 63.) Thus,
26 Plaintiff had adequate warning that dismissal would result from his noncompliance with
27 the Court's order to update his address.

28 ///

1 It is therefore recommended that this action be dismissed without prejudice based
2 on Plaintiff's failure to update his address in compliance with this Court's January 30,
3 2023 Order (ECF No. 63).

4 The parties are advised:

5 1. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(c) and Rule IB 3-2 of the Local Rules of
6 Practice, the parties may file specific written objections to this Report and
7 Recommendation within fourteen days of receipt. These objections should be entitled
8 "Objections to Magistrate Judge's Report and Recommendation" and should be
9 accompanied by points and authorities for consideration by the District Court.

10 2. This Report and Recommendation is not an appealable order and any
11 notice of appeal pursuant to Fed. R. App. P. 4(a)(1) should not be filed until entry of the
12 District Court's judgment.

13 **I. RECOMMENDATION**

14 **IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED** that this action be **DISMISSED** without
15 prejudice based on Plaintiff's failure to update his address in compliance with this Court's
16 January 31 2023 Order (ECF No. 63);

17 **IT IS FURTHER RECOMMENDED** that Defendants' motion for summary
18 judgment, (ECF No. 56) be **DENIED as moot**; and,

19 **IT IS FURTHER RECOMMENDED** that the Clerk of Court **ENTER JUDGMENT**
20 accordingly.

21 **DATED:** March 2, 2023.

22 
23 **UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**
24
25
26
27
28